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Be on time for
Sunday School!



Remember to set your
clocks back one hour on
Saturday night.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Lay missions banquet honors volunteers

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The 1999 Lay Missions Banquet at First Church, Brandon, on the evening of Oct. 25 honored volunteers in missions, focused on partnership missions, and heard a call to integrity from a U. S. district court judge.

The conference and banquet were sponsored by the witness team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

One couple and three individuals were recognized for distinguished service as mission volunteers during the past year.

Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), presented the WMU 1999 Volunteer in Missions Award to Mary Ingram of First Church, West Point.

During this summer's 1999 Ladies' Professional Golf Association's U. S. Open tournament held at Old Waverly course in West Point, Ingram played a critical role in the planning and implementing of the ministry opportunities at the event, according to Cassibry.

Neron Smith, consultant with the MBCB strategic initiatives department, presented their 1999 award to Howard and Sally Stevens of Pelahatchie.

Smith said that Stevens was instrumental in the establishment of a discipleship program in three of the state's prisons that involved over 1,500 inmates this year and saw 483 baptized.

In addition, they helped start programs at the Leake County and the Winston County correctional facilities, and will soon help start one at the East Mississippi correctional facility in Meridian.

As they received the award, Sally Stevens said to the capacity crowd of Baptists, "we just need more of you in prison."

Jim Didlake, director of the MBCB men's ministry department, presented dual 1999 awards to Bill Purvis of Attala County and John Henry of Rankin County.

Didlake said Purvis has "single-handedly run every weigh station between here and the West Coast," while driving the



VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR — Recipients of Volunteer of the Year Awards at the 1999 Lay Missions Conference Banquet Oct. 25 at First Church, Brandon were, (front row, from left) Howard and Sally Stevens, Pelahatchie Church, Rankin Association; (back row, from left) John Henry, Briarhill Church, Rankin Association; Mary Ingram, First Church, West Point; Bill Purvis, Ethel Church, Attala Association. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Mississippi disaster relief tractor-trailer rig.

Didlake said Henry "gets off work at about 7 a.m., which is about the time I get to work each morning. He calls me and says, 'What have you got for me to do today?'"

Both men have been active in disaster relief ministries, World Changers, and in building the new lodges at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, Didlake added.

Paul Harrell, director of the MBCB partnership missions department, reported that 1,108 people were involved in 87 projects during the last year. They saw 5,080 professions of faith, and raised \$1.5 million, which is over and above any regular missions offerings from the churches.

Representing the various partnership projects were: Ken Lyle, Ukraine; Mike

Wilson, Maryland/Delaware; Charles Barnes, Northeast Impact; and pastor Alberto Hearer, Honduras.

U.S. district court judge Charles Pickering Sr. brought the keynote address on the theme of integrity in the marketplace. Pickering, a member of First Church, Laurel, served as the president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1984-85.

"I know of no other time in history when it is more important for Christians to minister with integrity in the marketplace than at the end of the 20th century, at the beginning of the year 2000," Pickering said.

Pickering observed how 100 years ago, liberal philosophers and intellectuals began an assault on Christian thought, denying that man is inherently evil, and proclaiming that humanity could solve all of the world's problems.

World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War served to "knock this ideal back on its heels," Pickering observed.

Then in the 1960s, the philosophy of moral relativism took over, he observed, until "...today the belief is that no one has the answers, there are no absolutes, and society will not tolerate anyone who believes in absolutes."

Pickering called for integrity by Christians in four arenas — business dealings, lifestyle, family life, and race relations. "We will never know how many people have been lost because Christians lost the ear of the society," he said.

Pickering called for a return to faith in God through Christ. "America's greatest need cannot be solved on the judicial bench, in Congress, or by the President of the United States, but only by God."

Executive Comm. elevates Burrows

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in a scheduled meeting on Oct. 19 approved a new name for a board department and moved Itawamba Community College Baptist Student Union (BSU) director Chris Burrows to a full-time position at the school.

The MBCB student work department will now to be called collegiate ministry department. Department director Jerry Merriman told the committee the name change sets apart college work from high school ministry. He noted that local campus work would still be called Baptist Student Union.

Chris Burrows, who has worked as part-time BSU director at Itawamba Community College in Fulton since August 1997, will be full-time effective January 1.

Burrows, a graduate of Blue Mountain College earned a masters degree in Christian education from New Orleans Seminary.

Currently serving as pastor of Morning View Church, Mantachie, since 1986, Burrows has also been pastor of Dorsey Church, Fulton; Jumpertown Church, Booneville; and Oldham Church, Iuka. He also has been a sports writer and columnist for the Daily Corinthian in Corinth and the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal in Tupelo.

Burrows and his wife Donna have three children: daughters Andi and Taylor, and son Matthew.

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Back to the beginning, again

The television news report was spell-binding. Inside the ancient permafrost of a distant Russian tundra, scientists recently discovered a perfectly-preserved specimen of *elephantidae mammothus* — the long-extinct woolly mammoth.

Most adults today remember as a school child studying the fascinating history of the woolly (or hairy) mammoth, a hulking prehistoric relative of modern-day elephants. Fossils indicate some mammoths stood 14 feet high at the shoulder and had curving tusks 13 feet long — a pretty impressive creature by any standard.

Mammoths are believed to have died out about 10,000 years ago, and their fossilized teeth and bones are frequently uncovered during mining operations around the world. What makes this latest discovery significant, however, is the apparent intactness of this particular mammoth.

Scientists were shown clipping snippets of long, woolly hair. Samples that were taken indicate the animal's internal structure is virtually intact. Much is to be learned from this incredible find.

Tucked away near the end of the news report, almost as an afterthought, was the passing mention of what was to be done with a portion of the samples: a serious study will be conducted into the possibility of cloning the woolly mammoth back into existence.

If enough viable DNA can be extracted from the mammoth samples, scientists believe such a procedure could be attempted by using the same cloning technology that has produced cloned sheep and cattle in recent years.

Think about that for a moment. The science fiction of just a few years ago is once again the science fact of today. An animal not seen on the face of the earth for 100 centuries may soon make a comeback.

Such a concept may boggle the mind, but it's barely the tip of the iceberg where the explosion of scientific knowledge and discovery is concerned.

The October issue of National Geographic contains an illustrated article entitled, *The Secret of the Genes*, which reports that within a year the "rough draft" of the entire human genome — the complete genetic makeup of our species — will be available on the Internet.

The goal of the worldwide, multi-billion-dollar Human Genome Project is to map out every single detail of every single human gene by early in the next century. As anyone who has indulged in a casual, layman's study of the issue of genetic engineering can see, the implications are enormous.

It's enough to make one's head spin. Just about the time we think we have a grip on the latest scientific or technological advancement, some later breakthrough sends us back to the beginning.

Let's not be afraid of that fact. As Christians, we should find it interesting that we humans always seem to wind up again at the "beginning," for nothing in science has proven that what we accept on faith doesn't exist. If anything, it brings us closer to our Christian understanding of life.

God spoke the universe into existence. He formed the earth and created everything therein. The exquisite choreography woven throughout his creation continues to unfold before us with breathtaking elegance. We are all the result of intelligent design.

"YES, THE BIBLE IS
Y2K COMPLIANT. ALSO
Y3K, Y4K, Y5K...."



As the National Geographic article concludes, "Nine-tenths of our genes are identical to those of a mouse... More than a third of the genes of the lowly nematode worm... are shared with the exalted primate *Homo sapiens* (humans). Genomically speaking, even bacteria are our cousins.

"The last and most powerful secret revealed by our genes, in fact, is the indisputable unity of everything alive."

The indisputable unity of everything alive. What a concept — and we knew it all along.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



Who's afraid of Halloween?

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

The device was superstition. This whole thing about Halloween is nothing more than Middle Ages superstition, and an adult Christian was buying into it on this radio program.

Now, before my office is flooded with copies of articles about the evils of Halloween, let me remind readers of a few things. The Christmas tree has a pagan background, as does the Easter egg. Most of our holidays have roots in the pre-Christian world.

Also, remember who the devil is. Most Christians understand the Bible to teach that Satan is a fallen angel. He is not a god, and thus does not share the attributes of God.

The Bible teaches that God is all-powerful. Satan is not. The Bible teaches that God is all-

knowing. Satan is not. The Bible teaches that God is omnipresent, or capable of being in all places at all times. Satan is not.

Since Satan has limited power, limited knowledge, and cannot be everywhere as God can be, one of his most successful devices is to get us so scared of life that we spy his pointy red tail and horns behind everything that goes bump in the night.

The devil doesn't have to be anywhere near a cardboard caricature of a witch as long as Christian people think he is.

I remember a time when Christians weren't afraid of Halloween. In the early 1960s, my west Jackson neighborhood was a trick-or-treating haven.

It was as innocent a childhood endeavor as one might

find. There were occasional adolescent pranks, and as years have gone by, the pranks have taken a turn toward the ugly — but then, what in this world hasn't taken a turn toward the ugly?

October 31 is not inherently more evil than other days of the year, unless we Christians hide behind our stained-glassed windows and yield the day to evil.

In my years of pastoring, I never once had a call to deal with a family breakup at Halloween. However, there was rarely a Christmas season when I didn't receive such a call.

From the perspective of 15 years in the pastorate, I believe there is a whole lot more heartbreak and evil at Christmas than Halloween.

We need to rid ourselves of superstition and deal with the real evils in this world. I know people who will not permit their children dress up in a witch's costume, but think nothing of taking advantage of the inexpensive meals at casinos.

Which is more likely to end up harming your little boy or girl in their lifetime — an evening dressed as a goblin, or the presence of legalized gambling in our state?

Let's get real!

Iditarod competitor takes faith into race

WILLOW, Alaska (BP) — Courage and discipline, undergirded by her Christian faith, has enabled DeeDee Jonrowe to excel in the rigorous sport of Alaskan sled-dog racing.

Love — for God, people, and animals — tempers the competitive nature that has empowered Jonrowe, a Southern Baptist, to become a world-class athlete and sought-after motivational/inspirational speaker.

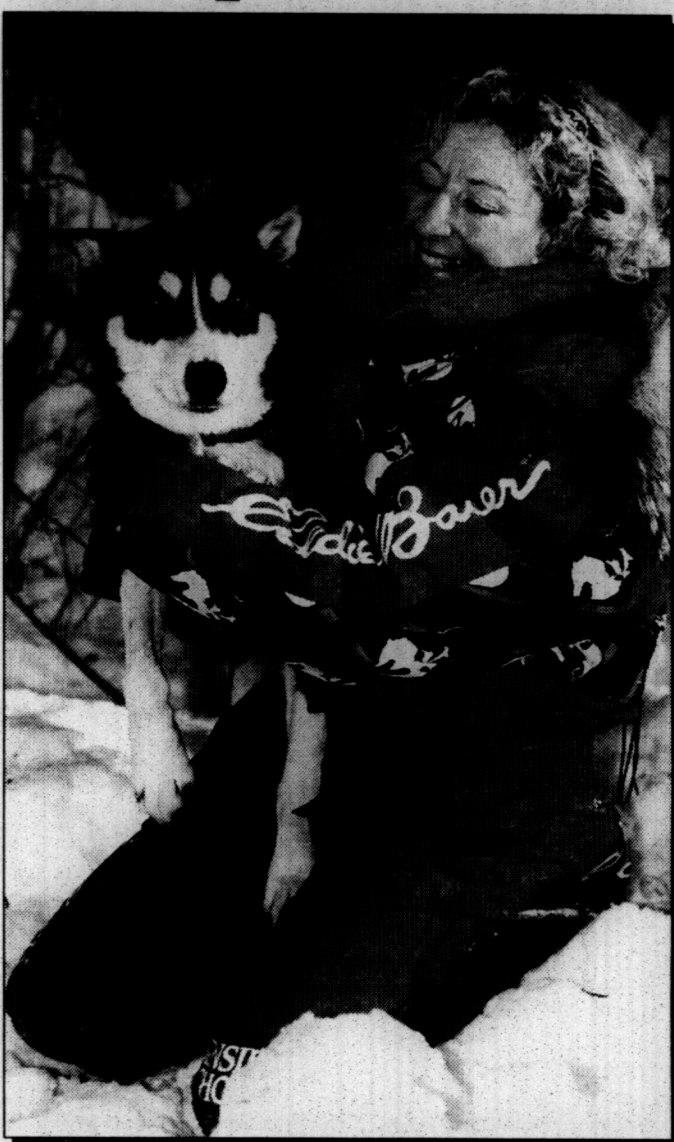
Jonrowe has participated in 17 Iditarod competitions — a grueling, mid-winter sled-dog race over 1,100 miles of jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, desolate tundra, and windswept coast between Anchorage and Nome.

Jonrowe's career includes second-place Iditarod finishes in 1993 and 1998; Most Inspirational Musher honors in 1993; and the Humanitarian Award at the 1991 Iditarod.

The Iditarod, known as the "Last Great Race on Earth," has won worldwide acclaim and interest because of its rugged-terrain challenge: temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a complete loss of visibility, long hours of darkness, and treacherous climbs — spanning about 11 days, more or less.

"You win when you simply don't allow yourself to stop trying," Jonrowe said. "If you allow yourself to give in, to stop fighting, the race just seems longer, the miles get long, the days pass slowly, and every hill is so much higher."

Though she was speaking specifically about the Iditarod, her words could be an analogy



TOUGH COMPETITOR — Alaskan sled-dog racer DeeDee Jonrowe, a Southern Baptist, has competed in 17 Iditarods, finishing second in 1998 and 1998 and in the top 10 nine other times and winning Most Inspirational Musher honors in 1993. (BP photo)

for the Christian faith, said Jonrowe, who intertwines her rock-solid dependence on God with her athletic experiences during many of her speaking engagements each year.

Jonrowe raced the Iditarod and several shorter sled dog races last winter despite having back surgery last year in her mid-40s.

"I just push through the pain," she said. "Giving up is not an option. You have to take healing on like a job. You have to be diligent and faithful in taking care of what you have."

"Aging is a natural process," she continued. "Just like if you don't pay attention to your faith and you're sloppy with your faith, you lose your strength that comes from daily meditation and daily time with God. If you don't take care of your body, the next thing you know, it's weak."

Jonrowe was in a major car accident in which her grandmother was killed, her husband, Mike, critically injured and her intestines ruptured in the fall of 1996.

"God brought us out of there," Jonrowe said. "We were trapped in a car at 30-below. I cried out to God in a moment when nothing else could help me and God delivered my husband back to me."

Jonrowe lives her faith every day, said Jerry Pinkerton, her pastor at Big Lake Church near Wasilla, Alaska.

"DeeDee has gone through some very, very tough times and has come out stronger for them," Pinkerton said. "She believes and trusts and I think she's one of the most godly, faithful, Christlike women I have ever known."

"God is faithful, just, righteous, dependable — all those things DeeDee is. I think she has those God-like characteristics that make her a godly woman."

Jonrowe credits her parents

for her victorious mind-set. "I guess my mother and father both have set wonderful examples for me both spiritually and physically," she said.

"Neither one of them had an easy family life but they never used it as an excuse to explain away weaknesses. My father's mother died when he was 4 years old," she pointed out.

Her father, Ken Stout, now retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel, and his wife, Peg, reared their two daughters on a succession of 22 military posts.

"Dogs were an intimate part of what was stable in my life," Jonrowe said. "I got my first one when I was six weeks old."

"Looking back on it, I think my mother used pets to teach values to my younger sister Linda and me," Jonrowe reflect-

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Magazine touts B&H series

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Broadman & Holman (B&H) Publishers' re-release of the Chip Hilton sports series is the subject of a feature article in the Oct. 18 issue of Sports Illustrated magazine. The 23-book series by NCAA football coach Clair Bee was published between 1948-1964. Updated versions of 12 volumes have been published by B&H with plans to release all 23, plus a 24th volume updated from a previously unpublished manuscript that Bee completed before his death. The updating of the books is being done by Bee's daughter, Cindy Farley, and her husband, Randy. They promised Bee before his death at age 87 that they would try to make the series available again.

Jack McCallum, a senior writer at Sports Illustrated who grew up on the original editions, acknowledges the updating was needed for today's generation, "(but) Hilton traditionalists shouldn't fret too much," he wrote.

"Though there will be plot changes (a buddy who fails an NCAA-administered drug test, a bout of cancer for Chip's beloved mother Mary), Chip will not be walking out of the huddle with an earring or flashing a radical tattoo as he rubs down the ball on the mound."

B&H president Ken Stephens said, "I am elated with the full-page feature on our Chip Hilton series in Sports Illustrated. This is what 'transforming our culture' (a phrase in the LifeWay vision statement) is all about."

B&H is a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, based in Nashville.

Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Shannon breaks ground for a new sanctuary and education building. A fire in Dec. 1988 destroyed the previous facilities. The new sanctuary will seat 750 for worship, in addition to improved adult education space, and office facilities.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptist have their first \$1,000,000 Cooperative Program (CP) month in Oct. 1979. Cooperative Program receipts from the churches total \$1,018,812, according to Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

50 years ago

Miss Yoneko Kigita, a Japanese student at Blue Mountain College speaks at Tippersville Church on a recent Sunday evening. According to pastor R. L. Ray, Jr., she brought a heart-stirring message to a large congregation.

Rankin Co. pastor writes partnership tract

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

A movement God started many years ago in the heart of a Rankin County pastor has resulted in specialized evangelistic training and materials for Mississippi Baptists going on mission through the Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Gene Gillis, pastor of Cleary Church, Rankin Association, has written and published a witnessing tract and accompanying training materials called Cross Tract Evangelism.

The Cross Tract had its origins in a 1986 mission trip to Seoul, South Korea, when Gillis witnessed to a Korean woman.

"After she received Christ, she began to tell me about a vision that she had. In the visions she had seen a cross. She said she knew in her heart that one day God would send someone to tell her the meaning of the cross," Gillis recalled.

Ten years later Gillis was leading an evangelism training session for Ukrainian Baptists in the city of Mukachevo. There was ice and snow on the ground as Gillis walked the streets one evening.

"It was so cold that night that I finally went into a little cafe to warm up," he said.

"There was a young intellectual man in the cafe. I began to witness to him using the Evangelism Explosion introduction. He told me that he did not believe in God, the Bible, Heaven, or Jesus. At that moment the Holy Spirit brought back to me the lady in Seoul, Korea. I told him the story of her vision about the cross, then I asked him the question, 'Do you know the meaning of the cross?'"

"He said, 'no.' I asked him, 'Would you like to know the meaning of the cross?'"

"He said, 'yes.' I was then able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with him," Gillis said.

Gillis didn't realize at the moment that this was the beginning of an evangelist method now in printed form.

Gillis has long been committed to personal evangelism, having been trained in

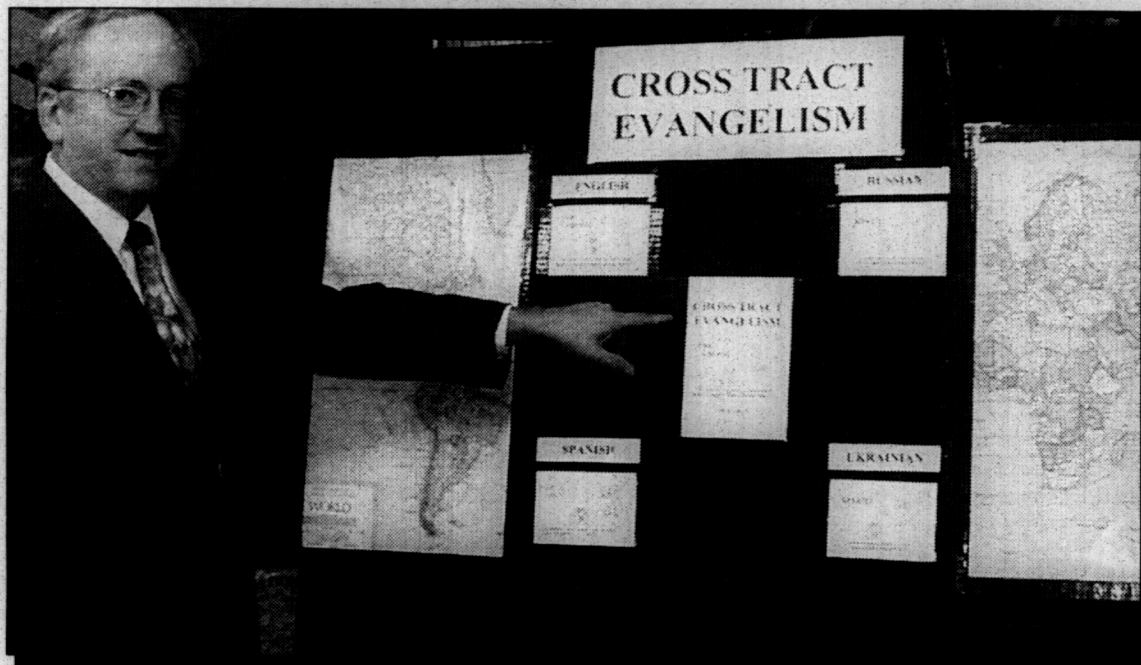
Evangelism Explosion (EE). Since 1995 he has made several trips to Ukraine leading EE schools.

In the process Gillis discovered that there were instances in Ukraine when the two introductory questions of EE just didn't work.

grace, mercy, judgment, and repentance.

When Mississippi Baptists entered a three-year partnership with Ukrainian Baptists in 1998, Gillis said he knew there would be a need for evangelism training materials.

"The Cross Tract was born out of



CROSS TRACT EVANGELISM — Gene Gillis, pastor of Cleary Church, Rankin Association, and coordinator for the Mississippi/Ukrainian Baptist partnership, shows a presentation board of the Cross Tract Evangelism materials he prepared for use in the state's partnership missions efforts. (Photo by Carl M. White)

"In evangelism, there must be a way to move into the gospel presentation," he said.

Because of the history of the Russian Orthodox church in the Ukraine's past, there are buildings with crosses in all the cities, towns, and villages.

"People everywhere know about the cross, but most people do not know what it means," Gillis observed.

This led to the Cross Tract, which opens with two exploratory questions:

- "The cross is the most famous sign in the world, but what does it mean?"
- "Would you like to know the meaning of the cross?"

The tract then goes on to explain God's

need," Gillis pointed out.

The Cross Tract has been translated into Russian, Ukrainian, and now into Spanish for the partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Honduras Baptists.

Though written and copyrighted by Gillis, he gladly gives the tract and accompanying training materials to anyone who would utilize the material.

For more information about the Cross Tract, or about partnership missions, contact the MBCB Partnership Missions Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3398, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: pharrell@mbcb.org.

Vestal to speak in Mississippi

Daniel Vestal, national coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in Atlanta, will speak in five Mississippi cities during a weekend tour of the state on October 29-31:

• Wingate Inn, Biloxi; October 29 at 6:30 p.m.

• Bayview Gourmet, Old Town, Ocean Springs; October 30 at 7:30 a.m.

• First Church, Meridian; October 30 at 1:30 p.m.

• Chapel of Memories, Mississippi State University, Starkville; October 30 at 6 p.m.

• Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland; October 31 at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Mississippi CBF coordinator Bradley Pope at (601) 355-7824.

MCBF elects new moderator, hears retiring Parks

By Jim Newton
MCBF correspondent

Ken Redford of Clinton was elected moderator of the Mississippi Cooperative Baptist

Fellowship (MCBF) during the group's fall assembly October 9 at Calvary Church, Jackson.

Redford, a member of Northminster Church, Jackson, is manager of information services for East Group Properties in Jackson. He succeeds Susan Meadors, associate pastor of Northside Church, Clinton.

Participants in the fall assembly also approved a budget of \$73,800 for MCBF statewide activities in the year 2000, an increase of \$16,000 over the 1999 budget.

In his first action as moderator, Redford — the grandson of the late Courts Redford, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) in Atlanta — appointed a committee to network with other Christian groups in Mississippi which are conducting missions work similar to MCBF.

In a "call to cooperative missions," Redford urged cooperation in doing for

Mississippi what Keith Parks, retiring global missions coordinator for the national

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), has done in developing networks with other Christians involved in global missions.

Parks, keynote speaker at the MCBF fall assembly, earlier challenged Baptists in Mississippi to proclaim the good news to the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed, in carrying out Christ's mission as described in Isaiah 6 and Luke 4.

Before signing on with CBF six years ago, Parks was a career missionary with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB), now called the International Mission Board, and he served as FMB president for 12 years.

Parks said one out of four people in the world does not

have access to the Gospel. He estimated that only one-half of one percent of missions dollars

given and only one percent of missionaries sent by missions agencies go to proclaim the Gospel to those unreached people.

CBF Global Missions has focused on the unreached people groups in the area known as "World A," Parks added.

The greatest need is not money but prayer, Parks said. He urged

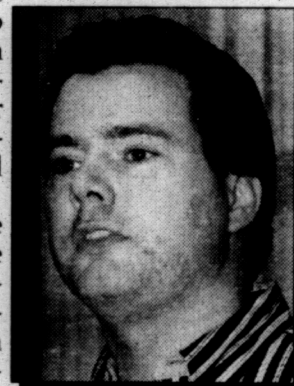
Baptists in Mississippi to join intercessory prayer groups who pray specifically for unreached people groups.

Retired business executive Gene Triggs of Madison, a former FMB chairman, introduced Parks, saying he believed Parks would go down in history as one of the most effective Christian leaders of the century.

The MCBF office in Jackson may be contacted at (601) 355-7824.



WELCOME TO MISSISSIPPI — Keith Parks (left), retiring global missions coordinator for the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), and his wife Helen Jean (second from left) talk with Wayne Riley (second from right), and his wife Glenda during an Oct. 8 reception in honor of the Parks at Northminster Church, Jackson. The Rileys are members of Grace Fellowship Church in Meridian. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Redford

MBTS drawing criticism for course offering

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP) — The executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention has withdrawn from teaching a seminary course on history and polity of the state group, perceiving a political agenda.

Executive Director Jim Hill said he at first accepted an invitation from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., to speak to a class about a strategic plan being proposed to the state convention this fall.

However, the executive said he learned only after reading a Sept. 23 memo that a conservative candidate for the state convention's presidency and the leader of an organization supporting his election were also scheduled for the one-day course scheduled Oct. 11.

Jay Scribner, the convention's current first vice president who is expected to be nominated as president this fall, and Roger Moran, a layman coordinating a "Project 1000" campaign aimed at electing conservatives to leadership posts in the state convention, were also invited to address the class, according to the memo.

The memo to students was distributed by seminary registrar and church history professor Steve Prescott, who will teach the course. It encourages students to participate in the annual meeting, preferably as voting messengers, and it announces that acting president Michael Whitehead waived tuition fees for the one-credit-hour course as an incentive.

Whitehead also authorized professors to cancel classes Oct. 26-27, the final two days of the three-day meeting.

"When I received a copy of the memo, it appeared to me that the course at least had the appearance of having a political agenda, because one [presidential] candidate was being asked to speak and the head of a political organization that was seeking to get him elected was being asked to speak," Hill said.

"The reason I didn't think it was appropriate is that I serve all Missouri Baptists, and I've tried to stay out of the political activity in the convention," Hill explained. The executive director said he still had an interest in sharing information about the "New Directions" strategic plan being con-

sidered by messengers to the convention's annual meeting, scheduled Oct. 25-27 in Liberty, Mo.

Whitehead said he understood Hill's decision to withdraw, but he contends that the goal of the course is simply to teach students about the work of the state convention and encourage them to be involved.

Baptist Press reported Oct. 7 that representatives of Mainstream Missouri Baptists, a moderate group formed to oppose Project 1000, would also speak at the class, which to date has 62 students preregistered.

But Rob Marus, the Mainstream group's paid coordinator, said no one was contacted about representing a moderate viewpoint until word got out that the Missouri Baptist newspaper Word and Way was working on a story about the course.

Marus said he was asked to participate only after he called the professor and "basically invited myself to speak to the class." While he said he is glad to have the opportunity for Mainstream Missouri Baptists to be represented at the class, Marus described his last-minute inclusion as "damage control" by the seminary.

Whitehead said he recognizes that some people think the seminary, an agency of the conservative-led Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), is trying to take a political position in encouraging students to become involved in the state convention.

"It's almost regrettable that anyone would even ask that question," he said. "We want them to be involved. We want all Baptists to be involved. Every Baptist who goes as a messenger ought to vote and vote his conscience. And we'll not do anything to try to influence or coerce anybody's conscience as to how they're going to vote."

Whitehead defended the invitations to both Scribner and Moran. Scribner is a current officer of the state convention, he said, and the president is unable to attend. Whitehead said he does not believe the fact that Scribner may be nominated as president should disqualify him. Moran, a layman who has been highly critical of what he views as moderate control of the state convention, is one of three Missouri representatives on the SBC Executive Committee.

In more recent discussions, the class is being described as dealing with state conventions in general, instead of the Missouri Baptist Convention specifically, and an executive from a neighboring state convention has reportedly been invited as well.

Welcome to Mississippi



Allen Stephens (left), director of missions for Rankin Association in Brandon, and his wife Omega (center) greet Southern Baptist Convention president Paige Patterson during the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference Oct. 25 at First Church, Jackson. Patterson was in Mississippi to preach at the evening session of the conference. Full coverage of the pastors' conference and the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting will be published in the November 4 edition of The Baptist Record. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Y2K-COMPLIANT SAVIOR

As the mad dash toward 2000 continues, I have found it increasingly difficult to resist writing about Y2K. There are days that I feel like I'm drowning in a cesspool of Y2K hysteria!

I fully recognize that there are two extremes concerning the issue. There is the extreme where people say there is nothing to the Y2K problem, that nothing is going to happen. They believe that the most lasting effect of Y2K will be the memories of the fact that we talked about it so much. I doubt that extreme is correct, for no doubt some of our ill-programmed computers will come to "00" and their chips will croak.

The other extreme says that soon after we enter into the millennium nothing will work. They believe one computer will break down, leading to another, and another, until exponentially they will all join in a great meltdown experience where no one will be able to call anyone, buy any gas, purchase anything, or go anywhere. Some people believe there will be global



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

paralysis caused by millions of computers seeing "00" on their monitors. I tend to believe that extreme will not happen either.

However, just in case the computers that are involved in producing and printing The Baptist Record were to konk out, I want to write you a personal and eternally proven truth — that we have a "Y2K" compliant Savior! If the Bible is true, and it unquestionably is, the Word says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Jesus that loved us so much that he would give his very life so that we could be forgiven of our sins and by faith experience new life and eternity with him, is not going to fail.

What if Y2K brings about a communication shutdown, satellites go on the blink, and televisions become snowy boxes and shut down because the electricity goes off? Jesus Christ still will be the same loving, powerful Savior he has always been. What if banking systems get "bumfuzzled," stock markets have tailspins, and computer-coded calendars do not know what day it is? Jesus Christ will still be the same.

If God had chosen computers to be the savior of the world, then we would have reason to fear and panic. Since he chose his loving and all-powerful Son to redeem us, we have reason to rejoice!

I heard a fellow recently who

was telling that he had developed a Y2K compliant yogurt. He said that it was guaranteed to taste the same on January 1 and 2 as it did on December 31 and that he was marketing it for the millions of people who wanted to be prepared for the Y2K crash.

Wow! I think he was joking, but as he talked I realized that there were some folks who would take him seriously and want to go out and buy his millennium bug-proof yogurt. If that sounds absurd, and it did to me, think about the greater absurdity of millions of people living in a stew and a stir over the effects of creature comforts touched by the Y2K possibilities, and ignoring the ultimate and eternal realities of life. They will plan to have bread on the table and ignore the Bread of Life; store up water to drink and ignore the Water of Life; prepare to have a generator to provide light and ignore the Light of the World.

Come what may and whatever happens, Jesus Christ will be the same yesterday, today, and— thank God — forever!

JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of West Heights Church, Pontotoc

The GAs of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, were recently recognized for their work. All age levels completed mission adventures and earned bracelets, charms, and badges. David Hamilton is pastor.

Como Baptist Church, 108 East Street, P.O. Box 638, Como, MS 38619. For more information, contact Doris Knight at (662) 526-9516. Love offerings will be accepted to help cover expenses.

Women on Mission of Como Church, Como, will host Stuart Calvert Saturday, Nov. 13, 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Calvert will share on her book entitled "Transformed - Shaped by the Hand of God." Registration is requested by Nov. 8. Send name of church, address, contact person, phone number, and number of people attending to

The Ladies Mission Group of Leaf River Church, Louin, will host a Mistletoe Fall Bazaar on Nov. 6 from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

October 31 has been designated as Staff Appreciation Sunday for staff members at Grandview Church in Pearl. A fellowship/reception will be held in honor of the staff members at 6:30 p.m. Staff members are Wade Chappell, pastor; Richard Sullivan, minister of music; Susan Heiden,

minister of youth; Brenda Sullivan, pianist; Kristi McMillan, organist; and Ruby Backstrom, secretary.

A children-led service will be held at Parkway Church, Morton, on Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. Ryan Murphy of Tylertown, 12 years old, will preach. The music director will be Crystal Massey of Forest, nine years old. The children of Parkway Church will sing in the choir. James Pender is pastor.



The Church Conner Chapter of RAs at Bethesda Church recently held a recognition service. Pictured (from left) are Allen Bridgers, David Cockren, Chris Hales, John Massey, Dylan Ramer, and Trey Thompson. Leaders are Karen Taylor and Frank Dulaney. Glenn Taylor is the director.

First Church, Madison, will hold a Mission Fest on Nov. 14. Missionaries will speak in all regular services as well as the Fest from 4-6 p.m. During the Fest, representatives from eight different mission fields will share and participate in four of the areas on a 25-minute rotating schedule. Missionaries

scheduled to attend include Chuck Johnson, Jim and Carolyn McAtee, David and Gloria Glaze, Charles Corey, Robert and Von Brown, Tom and Tammy Fox, Mary Jo Stewart, and Tabitha Fox and Ryan Kyzar, "missionary kids." A snack supper will be served at 6 p.m., prior to the evening service.



Ground breaking for the Family Life Building (FLB) of First Church, Winona, was held on Aug. 10. Pictured (from left) are Hal Brumfield, architect; Jay Yarbough, Harris Construction; Josh Jefcoat, architect; Kipp Clark, Harris Construction; Terry Dees; Tommy Fisackerly; Martin Mathews; Tom Dulin, chairman, FLB; T. R. Darsey, minister or music/education; Stephen Walker, minister of activities, youth, children; Evelyn Hester; May Whatley; Cindy Boone; Aubrey Boone, financial chairman, FLB; Karen Willingham; Rowland Walker; Johnny Walker, pastor; Barbara McClellan; Harry Neal; Linda Beckwith; W. A. Middleton; and Kenneth King.



GAs of Oak Grove Church, Meridian, recently held a recognition service. The program theme was Pilgrimage of Praise. GAs receiving World Venture charms were (from left) Tabitha McKee, Kacey Mott, Chris Sims, and Hannah Rice, (not pictured) are Emma Hayes and Jennifer Blackwell. Frank Rice is pastor.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 28, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Youth Ministers Workshop 1999

November 8-10
Lake Tiak O'Khata

Chris Davis

Richard Ross

Billy Beacham

Registration Form Youth Ministers Workshop November 8-10, 1999 Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name _____
Position _____ Office Phone _____
Spouse's name (if attending) _____ Home Phone _____
Number and Age of preschoolers (if attending) _____
Church Name _____ Association Name _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Email: _____

- ☐ I have made lodging reservations at Lake Tiak O' Khata.
☐ I do not need a room, but will plan to eat the following meals there:
☐ Monday dinner ☐ Tuesday breakfast ☐ Tuesday lunch
☐ Tuesday dinner ☐ Wednesday breakfast

Please complete this form and mail it to Matt Buckles,
MBCB, CAPM Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

For more information call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Schedule

Monday - Registration at 1:30 p.m., beginning session at 2:00 p.m., supper at 5:30 p.m., evening session at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., beginning session at 8:15 a.m., afternoon free, supper at 5:30 p.m., evening session at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., beginning session at 8:15 am and conclude at 10:00 a.m.

Finances

The charge for lodging and meals is the only cost for this conference. **Payment is to be made to Lake Tiak O' Kata and not to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.** All prices include tax and gratuity.

The motel group plan for this workshop includes two (2) nights lodging and five (5) meals. The five meals are Monday (dinner), Tuesday (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and Wednesday (breakfast). Motel group plan per person is:

\$146.25 for single occupancy	One night's lodging and three (3) meals plan per person cost is:
\$98.15 for double occupancy	\$ 76.75 for single occupancy
\$81.35 for triple occupancy	\$ 52.70 for double occupancy
\$72.95 for quad occupancy	\$ 44.30 for triple occupancy
	\$ 40.10 for quad occupancy

Reservations

For motel lodging reservations, please call Lake Tiak O'Khata at (601) 773-7853, toll free at (800) 845-6151 or fax at (601) 773-4555. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 160, Smyth Road, Louisville, MS 39339. A block of rooms is being held for this conference until November 1 (one week before the first day of the Workshop). At that time all rooms on hold will be released. Each room must be individually reserved and guaranteed with a deposit by this date. Cancellation policy is one week prior to arrival date. Please clip and return the Registration Form below to Matt Buckles, CAPM Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or fax to Matt at (601) 714-7426.

Preschool Childcare

Preschool childcare will be provided at First Baptist Church, Louisville, at no additional cost.

Bookstore and Display Area

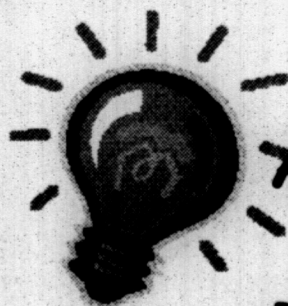
A LifeWay Christian Store display will be available to the conferees. Other displays by youth/student ministry vendors will be present.

Registration

Complete the form and return to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, **no later than November 1, 1999.** It is necessary that your registration be received by this date so that adequate preparation can be made.

Sponsored by the
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION-PASTORAL MINISTRIES DEPT.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

Dept. Fax: 601-714-7426
Email: mbuckles@mbcb.org
churchad@bellsouth.net



"LIGHT YOUR WORLD" AREA-WIDE YOUTH RETREAT NOVEMBER 12-13, 1999 ROOSEVELT STATE PARK - MORTON, MISS.

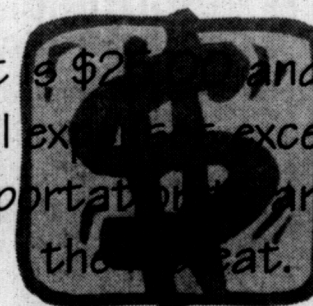
♦ Paul Strahan

FBC Petal
Bible study leader
worship speaker

♦ Clayton Jordan

Dothan, Alabama
praise and worship
leader

The cost is \$25 and includes
all expenses except
transportation and from
the retreat.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE is November 2, 1999.
ONLY 100 SPACES LEFT!

For more information or to register, contact Don Lum, youth consultant,
MBCB Evangelism Department at 292-3280.

This event is sponsored by the Youth Squad
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



**MOVEMENT TO
RHYTHM MADE EASY,
EASY
(Dalcroze)**

Tim Waugh, Clinician

Friday 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - noon

November 12-13, 1999

*Parkway Baptist Church,
Clinton, Mississippi*

Emile Jacques-Dalcroze was the great Swiss music educator who first developed the concept that musical rhythm depended absolutely on motor consciousness for its fullest expression. Come and learn how beat and **rhythm** experiences will encourage more musical singing and ringing from your choirs. Discover how music "games" will shape and sharpen needed musical skills. Most of all, come and see what fun moving together in music can be!!!

Tim Waugh is an active musician known throughout his native West Virginia as well as nationally and internationally. He chairs the Department of Music and the Division of Fine Arts at Pike View High School, where he directs choral and handbell activities. He recently retired from active church music ministry after 32 years of service. The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers named him a master teacher in 1996.

The clinic on rhythm will be of significant help to handbell directors and ringers, and children's choir directors and workers. All would benefit greatly from a musical experience designed to develop motor skills.

Registration Form

This form and fees should be mailed to the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. You may also pay at the door. The fee is non-refundable.

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Please register _____ persons for the movement to Rhythm made Easy, Easy (Dalcroze) clinic, at \$5 per person.

Church name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Association _____



**MissionsQuest
Weekend**

MissionQuest from the inside out

Camp Garaywa

November 19-20

Friday 5:30 p.m. - Saturday 2 p.m.

\$27.50 per person

(includes meals, lodging, limited insurance, program fees)

**All Acteens and their
advisors are invited.**

- Hear D.P. Smith, missionary to West Africa
- Hear Acteens working on MissionsQuest
 - Activities for all age levels
- Learn how you can participate

This is a great opportunity to learn about MissionQuest, what it is, how to get started and work on MissionsQuest activities. Registration begins at 5:30. Dinner begins at 6:30. The weekend ends at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

**MissionQuest Weekend Registration Form
(Deadline November 5)**

Church _____

Association _____

Contact person _____

Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Number of people _____ x \$27.50 per person = \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)

*Send to: MissionsQuest Weekend, WMU Office, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530*

For more info, call the State WMU Office at
1-800-748-1651 (in state) or 1-601-292-3316



YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999

A.E. WOOD COLISEUM

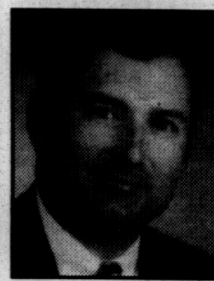
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COST: \$5

REGISTRATION: BEGINS AT 11 A.M.

PROGRAM: 1 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT

*Join together with teenagers across the state
to bring in the NEW MILLENNIUM.*



Danny Lanier
Evangelist



Scott Crenshaw
Youth Evangelist



Jim Futral
Executive Director-Treasurer
Mississippi Baptist
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Kevin Williams
Worship Music Leader



Matt Fore
Magical Comedy

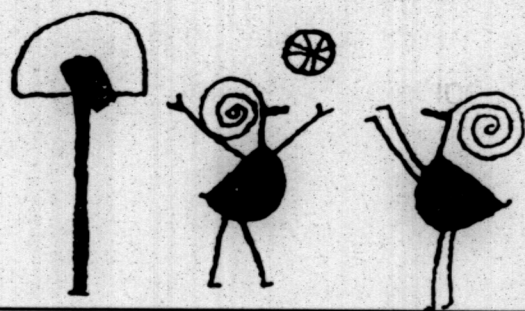


Dennis Lee & Nick
And the Nana Puddin' Bunch

Are You Ready?

Sponsored by Evangelism Department, S.A. Adkins, director, Don Lum, youth consultant

GA/Acteens Campus Days



Blue Mountain College
November 13
10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



- Missionaries • Basketball
 - Music
 - Testimonies • Cheerleaders
- 10:30 Registration and campus tour
11:00 Program
12:00 Lunch
2:00 Game Time

\$7.50 (includes basketball game, meal, program, and limited insurance)

Blue Mountain GA/Acteens Campus Day Registration (Deadline November 8)

Church _____ Assoc. _____
Contact person _____
Daytime phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
No. people _____ x \$7.50 = \$ _____

Make check to MBCB and send to GA/Acteens Campus Days,
WMU Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
For more info call the State WMU Office
1-800-748-1651 (in state) or 601-292-3316

Pray this day for...

October 29 - November 11, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find him the rest of the day."

Bunyan

Voter Awareness day (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Learn all you can about the candidates running for office and pray that God will give wisdom in voting for the best candidate for each office.

Give thanks that the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary, after over a year of searching, now has a new president! He is a medical doctor and a church leader. Pray that the seminary will be effective in preparing workers for Mexico City and throughout Mexico.

For (1) Baptist Building Staff Planning Week, Oct. 1-5, (2) Pray for the Georgia Mountain Resort Ministry's fall ministries in Helen, Ga.

For (1) Youth Ministers Workshop, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries). Pray for the many Tajumulco Mam believers in Guatemala who have a past with alcoholism that Christ will remove this temptation from their lives.

Several international Christian workers have been deported in recent days, and some additional house church leaders have been arrested in China. Pray that personnel will find a healthy balance between caution for the sake of security and boldness for the sake of witness.

Pray for the work of the water development team of the Mindano Baptist Rural Life Center in the Philippines. Pray for them while they address the physical need for water and also proclaim the Living Water.

Ask God today to break down barriers and open doors in Taiwan and other countries so that the 49 million Hokkien people of the world can have an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Reports have recently come of new believers among Libyan Arabs. In Libya, any activity not approved of by the government becomes a serious matter. Pray for protection for these new believers, as well as for wisdom for those working with them.

Please pray for a small group of believers who are now meeting in the Agni Village of Yakasse, Cote D'Ivoire. These individuals made decisions for Christ during an outreach weekend in May and during the filming of the Agni prayer video in June.

South Africa is undergoing a crime wave that is beyond description. Pray for our missionary personnel and for the love of God to break through a culture where years of hate have prevailed.

For International Student Conference, Camp Garaywa (Student Work). Karl and Peggy Wallace ask that we pray for the middle/upper class professional people of Bogota, Colombia. So many of them do not know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Chris Watson is director of the Lighthouse Hill-N-Park Mission Center, Greeley, Colo. Pray for finances for the center and for the staff as they continue to minister to all who were saved over the summer.

Pray for the Spirit's leading as workers meet with leaders and seek to place personnel and resources among some difficult and potentially dangerous people groups across Britain and Ireland. Many of these people groups have no culturally appropriate witness in their setting.

Pray for the continuing success of the Bible School that the Taita-Taveta Baptist Association opened in Kenya. Pray that all of their pastors and leaders will enroll in the school for the ministry training and that God will lead the churches to support the school financially.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

4-86

MISS KATIE GRAY

Rua Professor Manuel Ferreira

171 Apt 1108 Gavea 22451-030

Rio de Janeiro/RJ, BRAZIL

Parents: Tony & Karen, Music Promotion

6-88

MISS MARISA WOMBLE

Casilla 1415 Asuncion PARAGUAY

Parents: Freddie & Karen, General Evangelism

13-78

KYLE WHITE

P O Box 864888

Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0044

Parents: Jerry & Glenda, Church Planting
SERVE IN WESTERN PACIFIC

14-85

MR. ALLEN LIGHTSEY

VIP SAL #731, P O Box 52-5364

Miami, FL 33152-5364

Parents: Timothy & Rebecca, Church & Home Outreach
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

20-78

MR. JOHN LATHAM

Baylor University, P O Box 81835

Waco, TX 76798

Parents: Tony & Kathy, Theological Education
SERVE IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

20-83

MISS MICHELLE SHEARER

Apartado 208, Huaraz, PERU

Parents: Kevin & Pam, General Evangelism

20-85

MISS KIMBERLY D. SHEARER

Apartado 208, Huaraz

PERU

Parents: Kevin & Pam, General Evangelism

22-77

MISS ALICIA PARKER

William Carey College, Box 1353

498 Tuscan Avenue

Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499

Parents: Ronnie & Beth, Financial Administration
SERVE IN EASTERN SOUTH AMERICA



HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Ladies in Fellowship Transition

Ladies in Fellowship Transition, known as "Lift," met in the home of Yvonne Taylor on June 7 to celebrate their first year anniversary. Mary Penilton and LaNita Boone organized "Lift" for the purpose of making a difference in Slayden Community through prayer, scripture, and

music. The group represents the following churches: Slayden Baptist, Hudsonville C.M.E., and Concord M.B. Pictured (kneeling, from left) are Taylor, Arleen Louellen, Katherine Boling, Louise Coleman; (seated) Geneva Pye, Boone; Ruth Gamble, Roxie Hill; (standing) Gracie

Stephens, Geraldine Williams, Joyce Stephens, Teresa Walker, Louise Smith, Marie Byrd, Charlotte Brown, Wanda Boswell, and Penilton. Not pictured is Faye Sanders.

First Glendale, Hattiesburg, recently held a recognition service for GAS. Pictured are (front from left) Dana Rasberry; Apryl Corley; Stephanie McDonald; Brittney Kelley; Marlee Cameron; Katie Funderburk;

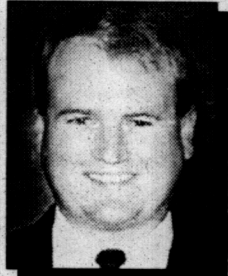
Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc, held GA recognition services on Oct. 3. GAS pictured (front row, from left) are Amber Dillard, Emily Robbins, Miranda McLaughlin; (back row) Jeanne Dove, Amber Lewis, and Lauren Ann McLaughlin.



GAS of Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc

STAFF CHANGES

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, has called **Shannon Marshall** as pastor effective Oct. 10. A native of Poplarville, Marshall received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Mt. Horeb Church.



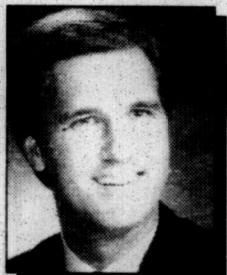
Marshall

First Church, Charleston, has called **Jeff Byars** as minister of music effective Sept. 19. Byars previously served at Holcomb Church, Holcomb. He has served churches in Mississippi and Kentucky.

Shady Grove, Batesville, has called **Jarrett Jamison** as minister of youth effective Oct. 9. Jamison is a student at Delta State University.

Randall L. Von Kanel (Randy)

joined the **Global Outreach, Tupelo**, staff as executive vice-president on Sept. 1. A native of Macon, Von Kanel is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He recently served as associate pastor of First Church, Jackson.



Von Kanel

Evansville Church, Northwest Association, has called **R. David Worley** as pastor effective Oct. 1. A native of Tennessee, Worley received his education at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Mid-America Seminary. His previously place of service was First Church, Obion, Tenn.

Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, has called **Thad Moore** as pastor. His previous place of service was pastor of First Church, Holly Springs. A Pastor Installation Service will be held on Nov. 14 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Following the service there will be a reception for Moore and his family.



Moore

and Kelsie Cameron; (back row from left) Renee Ballard, leader; Macy Williamson; Alison Alvarez; Brittney Hall; Brett Patterson; Kristal Brock; Nykki Corley; Sandy Cameron, leader; Nikki Graham; and Jamie Corley. Karen Harless is director.



GAS of First Glendale, Hattiesburg

Gregory to lead parable study

Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Church, Dallas, the Southern Baptist Convention's largest congregation, will lead a three-day study entitled "Old Stories for a New Millennium," October 29-31 at Calvary Church, Hattiesburg. The study, which will focus on the parables of Jesus, will emphasize the relevance of the parables' truths to contemporary spiritual and social needs. Gregory will speak at 7 p.m. on October 29 and 30, and at the 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship services on October 31. Gregory shocked the members of First Church, Dallas, in September 1992 when he resigned after only two years in the pastorate. The circumstances surrounding his departure are contained in *Too Great a Temptation*, a book Gregory authored following his resignation. "Dr. Gregory has limited his speaking engagements since resigning, and his appearance at Calvary Church will be a noteworthy expansion of the ministry which he has recently maintained," said John Voss, Calvary Church pastor. For more information, contact Calvary Church at (601) 264-7338.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED: pre-packaged (most meals, lodging, assignment) mission trips in 11 US cities and Toronto. NAMB endorsed. For more info, call Youth on Mission, 1-800-299-0385; www.yom.org.

CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Minister to Students (youth and college) full-time. Send resume to: Ridgecrest Baptist Church, 912 31st St. East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

FOR SALE: 1993 Metrotrams Mini-Bus, 25 passenger — Rear and front A/C — Ford 460 EFT Engine, \$25,000 — Mileage 90,000. Phone 601-763-7571.

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME — Tallahassee needs a husband-wife team to be primary residential staff for the girls home. Excellent salary/benefits. Work for 2 weeks on duty, 1 week off. Come minister in the lives of children! Call Pam at 1-850-878-1458.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. — Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

WANTED: MISSIONARY-MINDED couple to serve the Lord in a home caring for children needing a place to live. This evangelical organization has been meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Not a behavior modification facility. Competitive salary and other compensations which include housing, food, insurance, and retirement. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children (601) 328-5216.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PIANIST NEEDED. Send resume to Stephen Burkin, Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, 5275 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212 or fax 601-372-3010.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORA is currently seeking a minister of music/education. Seminary degree is preferred. Send resume along with photo to: FBC Flora, P.O. Box 163, Flora, MS 39071. Call 601-879-8022 for more information.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resume to East Columbia Baptist Church, 385 Columbia/Purvis Road, Columbia, MS 39429. Call 601-736-2683.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH in Jackson is seeking nursery workers for Sunday and Wednesday night services. Pay is negotiable. For more information call the church at 601-372-0132.

Custom Church Interiors

Schedule a meeting today, at no obligation, to discuss your renovation needs.

1 800 654 1294

Renovate Now!

Let Custom Church Interiors assist your church in updating its facilities for ministry in the new millenium. We handle all details by providing these services:

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- Interior Color-Styling
- Construction
- Furnishings

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Homecomings

Salem, Tylertown: Oct. 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall; Johnnie Sykes, former pastor, Brookhaven, guest speaker; singing and dedication of the sanctuary at 1 p.m.; Bradley Rushing, pastor.

Concord (Smith): Nov. 7; 100 years at present location; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; George Meadows, former pastor, speaker.

The annual **Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Program** will be held in the Modena Berry Lowrey Auditorium at Blue Mountain College, Nov. 1-3. Monday and Wednesday sessions start at 9:50 a.m. and the Tuesday session begins at 10:30 a.m. The Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture program provides speakers for religious emphasis programs at small Christian colleges. Thomas F. Staley founded the program so that young Americans could hear the faith defended by evangelicals and well-trained scholars. Rhonda Harrington Kelley, wife of Charles S. Kelley Jr., president of New Orleans Seminary, will be the guest speaker. She serves as associate director of Innovative Evangelism and adjunct professor at the seminary. For further information, call Tracy Moser, director of the Baptist Student Union, at (662) 685-4771, ext. 173.

Stanford E. Lehmborg, internationally known English historian, will present the 1999 Eaves Lectureship in English and European History at Mississippi College on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in Self Hall, room 210. Lehmborg's topic will be "Henry VIII and the English Reformation." For more information, call (601) 925-3221.

Holly Deanna (Dee) Norwood, of Pelahatchie, a junior business administration major at William Carey College, was the recipient of the United Parcel Services (UPS) award. Norwood received the scholarship and the designation of UPS Scholar based on her outstanding academic record.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Nicole Berry, a senior majoring in business technology at Blue Mountain College (BMC), and Dot Jackson, head of the business department at BMC were recently recognized at the National Phi Beta Lambda

Leadership Conference in Chicago. Berry was a national finalist, winning sixth place in the Ms. Future Business Executive competition. Jackson received the Golden Apple Award in appreciation for being the longest standing advisor. She was also recognized at the Southern Regional meeting and received a certificate

for having served 30 years as an advisor. Other BMC Phi Beta Lambda state winners that competed at the National Leadership Conference but are not pictured were Frank West, competing in the Mr. Future Business Executive event, and Haley Randall, competing in Marketing.



Berry and Jackson

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Jensen, Alexander, and Sullivan

First Church, Tupelo, ordained Dennis Sullivan and Dave Jensen to the ministry on June 20. Sullivan is pastor of Westside Church, Bruce. Jensen is interim minister of education at First Church, Tupelo. Participating on the program were Len Sullivan, Parkway

Church, Tupelo; Gayle Alexander, First Church, Tupelo; J. D. Johnson, Barnes Crossing Church, Tupelo; and Ralph Cain, Lee County Association. Pictured (from left) are Jensen, Alexander, and Sullivan.

Chris Greer (center) was ordained as deacon by Glenfield Church, New Albany, on Aug. 29. Pictured with Greer is Mike Scott, chairman of deacons, presenting the certificate, and Horace Thomas, pastor.



Thomas, Greer, and Scott

Marlissa Fillingane, member of Oral Church, Lamar Association, served as a summer missionary in South Dakota

for two months this summer. Fillingane, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi, was sponsored by the North American Mission Board. While there she assisted in three Vacation Bible Schools and held four Backyard Bible Clubs.



Fillingane



New Faith Church, Pontotoc, recently licensed Matthew J. Long to the ministry. Long surrendered to the ministry on Aug. 15 and was licensed on Aug. 29. Pictured (from left) are Long and David Westmoreland, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Woodhaven, Ocean Springs: Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., followed by potluck dinner; Mon., 7 p.m.; Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., 6:30 p.m. followed by chili supper; Harold Danley, Arkansas, guest speaker.

Barton, Lucedale: Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Andy Hadley, Wiggins, music; James Sanders, pastor.

First, Columbia: Nov. 7-10; Real Life Crusade; Jim Wilson, evangelist; Larry McFadden, music; Sunday, 10:10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Nov. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Williams, Monticello, evangelist; Tim Hudson, Monticello, music; Mike Sutton, pastor.

East Side (Simpson): Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lyn Nations, Raleigh, speaker; Keith Mangum, music; James P. Nations, pastor.

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TRAGIC DAY

Editor:

September 17 was a tragic day for all the members at Unity Church in West. Our pastor Jessie Scott Jr. passed away. Scott had been our pastor for 14 1/2 years. He and his wife Sarah will be greatly missed. Scott was truly a man of God. He had made so many accomplishments at our church.

When we all first got the tragic news of his death, the first thing that crossed our minds was "why?" This was a man who was a true believer. He had so much more in life to give and he was gone. Then my 14-year-old son told me, "Mother, you know the reason God took Bro. Scott. He needed more pretty flowers to put in his bouquet." I thought that was so true. We all know Scott is in a much better place. He is in his heavenly home with his Lord that he loved so much.

We at Unity will miss him terribly but we know in our hearts he would want us to continue our work at the church, so this month as each of you celebrate Pastor Appreciation Day give your pastor an extra hug, an extra smile, or an extra amen. Let him know just how much he means to you, because we at Unity Church loved our pastor with all our heart and appreciated him so much for all he did for everyone — young and old. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Carolyn E. White, church clerk
West

fruit jar (and) the first donation that began the building program of the Santa Rosa Church — has been multiplied a thousand fold.

Santa Rosa Church was organized as a mission on Nov. 21, 1947, and began worshipping in the old Aaron Academy School under the leadership of Reverend Olyn Sims. The mission petitioned to enter Pearl River Association on Oct. 2, 1949, and was accepted.

When the (federal rocket) test site moved in, forcing the church to disband in 1963, the government gave the church \$42,500 for the property.

The members were in a quandary about what to do with the money. The prayer of each member was, "Lord, show us what to do." God sent a former pastor, Richard Lubbert, with his answer. Lubbert's message from God was to invest the money and put it to work for the Lord drawing interest.

After all debts were paid the church had a balance of \$36,171.53. This was set up in the "First Baptist Church of Santa Rosa Memorial Trust Fund" with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, with the interest going each year to the Cooperative Program.

The former members are scattered all over Pearl River County and the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Each year on the second Sunday in November, a Santa Rosa reunion is held at First Church, Nicholson, at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a picnic lunch.
Irma Frierson
Picayune

to my friend from Pearl: Scott Crawford. We became roommates at Mississippi State University after strong community college Baptist Student Union (BSU) backgrounds.

Through BSU, we developed a world of vision and a deep, lasting friendship.

After we both graduated from New Orleans Seminary, our paths separated but we remained close friends.

In the mid-1990's I served as a Mission Service Corps BSU director in Seattle, Wash., and was a member of Victory Baptist Church.

I was delighted to find out that Scott became the pastor of the very same Victory Baptist Church in December of last year.

There is an urgent need that burdens me, and I pray that you will help. Scott, his wife Melissa, and two small children, Caleb and Emily, are trying to minister in a 1987 Honda Civic with 200,000 miles on it.

A third child is due in late October and the car is worn out and much too small for three child car seats. Scott and his family need a vehicle, preferably a minivan.

Please pray and seek the Father's face for this need of our brother and fellow laborer in Seattle.

If you want to help meet this need, please contact me at (662) 562-6168 or send correspondence to BSU, P.O. Box D.D. NWCC, Senatobia, MS 38668. May the Lord richly bless.

Frank Porter, BSU director
Northwest Miss. Comm. Coll.
Senatobia

School and worship service in a borrowed van.

There are ministry needs for a van at other times of the week. If any churches or individuals could help in securing a van for this ministry or would like more information, we can be contacted at: Corinth Baptist Church, 1637 Corinth Road, Carthage, MS 39051.

Ross Holleyman, pastor
Corinth Baptist Church
Leake Association

GUEST OPINION SUPERB

Editor:

The (guest opinion) by Grace Jones (regarding the observance of Constitution Week in Mississippi) in the Sept. 16 edition was superb.

Her remarks concerning our United States Constitution were facts we need to hear more often.

The genius of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, and many more great men was incredible, as they framed and set forth our constitution.

We look back to 1776 to those brave men who put their life on the line as they signed the Declaration of Independence.

We read those beautiful and profound words written by Thomas Jefferson: "All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights."

Has anything ever been written that surpasses this declaration?

I have had the privilege to visit Philadelphia and to view the Liberty Bell and tour Constitution Hall.

The hall is unchanged since 1787. It was an unforgettable experience.

What a great learning experience it would be if every school child could visit this place where our country was born.

I thank God for our founding fathers and the best system of government this world has ever known.

Haskel Stringer
Bay Springs



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

SANTA ROSA TO MEET

Editor:

The late Albert McQueen's widow's mite — 59 cents in a

VAN NEEDED

Editor:

I would like to introduce you

VAN NEEDED

Editor:

Capilla Bautista Hispana Cristo de Rendontor is a mission work targeting the growing Hispanic population of Leake County.

This work is being led by Joel and Damaris Medina. Each Sunday Joel transports about 40 people to and from Sunday

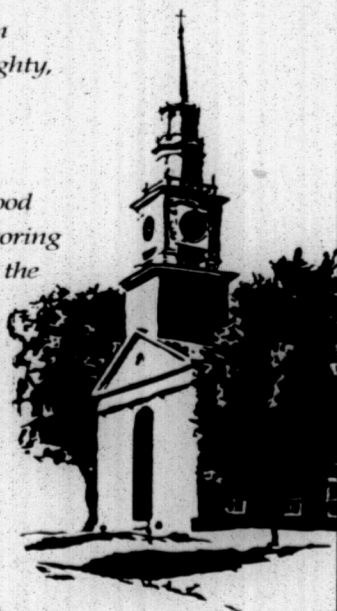
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Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, they that be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NKJV

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE is November 2, 1999.

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For more information or to register, contact Don Lum, youth consultant, MCB Evangelism Department at 292-3280.

This event is sponsored by the Youth Squad of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Life experiences fuel woman's ministry

WICHITA, Kansas (BP) — Winter had not quite released its grip on the city of Wichita when Delilah Countryman's phone rang one afternoon. A strong north wind was blowing and she was anxious to settle into her warm house after a busy day at work.

Life no longer had anything to offer, the caller told her. In a matter of minutes, the woman planned to put a gun to her head and pull the trigger.

Forgetting about the frigid

temperature, Countryman bolted from her home with just a sweater on and raced to the woman's house.

She climbed the steps and was met at the door by the angry woman waving a pistol in her face.

"Don't come any closer or I am going to kill myself," the woman threatened.

With those words, Countryman backed away from the door and began to pray for the right words to say.

"She was crying and I knew one wrong word and she would have killed herself," Countryman said.

"It was cold outside and for four hours I pleaded with the woman to think about what she was about to do.

"I told the Lord how cold I was and immediately a blanket of heat came over me.

"I told her I loved her and felt for her," and finally the woman broke down, began sobbing and put the gun down on the floor."

Countryman rushed into the house and hugged the woman as the tears poured from the broken woman's eyes.

"It's hard to witness to people about Christ when they can't see past their circumstances. One way to witness to them is through our actions," Countryman says.

Countryman is the director of the Good Neighbor Center in Wichita, Kan., a place where the physical needs of people are met with food, clothing, miscellaneous household items, furniture, and toys. Emotional and spiritual needs are met when people meet Countryman and she points them to Jesus with her smiles, hugs, encouragement, and prayers.

Housed in the basement of Midway Church, and for some time a ministry of Cottage Grove Church, the Good Neighbor Center receives support from the Viola Webb Missions Offering of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, the Heart of Kansas Baptist Association, and other churches in the area.

The beaten-down green carpet and rough wooden shelves



REACHING OUT — With kind words and a friendly hug, Delilah Countryman (right) director of the Good Neighbor Center in Wichita, Kan., encourages volunteer Teresa Gillenwater to be faithful in her walk with Christ. Volunteers play a key role at the Good Neighbor Center. (BP photo)

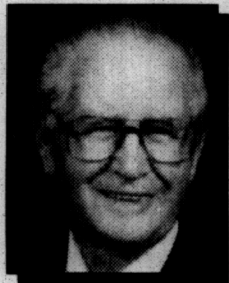
stocked with brightly colored clothes of all sizes give no indication of the countless lives touched by the ministry.

Every hour, hurting people filter into the center, seeking assistance. Young children with dirty faces and tattered clothes hold on to the faded dress of an aging grandmother or a teenage mother and then laugh with amusement as Countryman scoops them up to find a better outfit for them from one of the clothing racks.

Through Countryman and the Good Neighbor Center, God's love is being shown to many people in Wichita. The calls still come at midnight and Countryman still finds herself trying to calm domestic disputes, counsel drug addicts, and help teenage prostitutes find their way home, undergirded by the message that Jesus loves them and he died for their sins.

Raymond A. Herrington dies at age 81

Raymond A. Herrington, 81, of Louisville, died Aug. 31 of heart failure at Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian. Funeral services were held at the Macedonia Church in Louisville with burial at Union Cemetery in Union.



Herrington

A native of Union, Herrington graduated from Mississippi College in 1948 and New Orleans Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1950 and a Doctor of Theology degree in 1958. He was licensed to the ministry by the High Hill Church in 1936 and ordained to the ministry by the New Ireland Church in 1938.

Herrington served 63 years as pastor in Mississippi churches. He also served for 10 years as the director of missions for the Winston Baptist Association and was named Director of Missions Emeritus in 1999 by the executive committee.

Survivors include his wife Mable of Louisville; son, Russell Herrington of El Paso, Texas; daughter, Donna Shepherd of Weatherford, Texas; one brother; six sisters; and four grandchildren.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

Our 15-year-old daughter wants to stay out until 2 a.m. on weekends. We don't really have a good reason to say "no," in that we trust her. She is a good girl.

Remember you are her parent, not her friend. It is not your responsibility to make her happy; it is your responsibility to provide her with the necessary ingredients to make her a productive, well-adjusted adult. Frankly, it is too dangerous for anyone to be out at that hour — especially a 15-year-old. Saying "no" will not be the most popular answer, but you're not in a popularity contest. Providing the security she needs reflects that she is valuable to you. Share with her your reasons for saying "no." Allow discussion about these types of issues. Don't simply hand down a dictate and fail to build a relationship. Proms and special occasions — where there is adult supervision — would be exceptions. Remind her that in a few years she will be on her own and can make those decisions, but you have a responsibility before God to look after her while she is in your care. Hang in there; she will appreciate you later.

Our four-year-old is mistreating the family dog to the point that he is pulling hair off the dog. What should we do?

First, protect the dog! Pets should never be mistreated. Your child is frustrated about something. Become a good observer to determine what has been happening around him when he hurts the dog. What is he watching on TV? What are the kids in the neighborhood talking about? His actions are describing a need that is going unmet. He is obviously looking for attention, although in a negative way. Provide options for him. He may be bored. Sit down and play a game with him and while you are playing say something like, "Spot sure didn't like you pulling his hair. What was that like for you? Do you wonder what it feels like? I wonder why God put hair on Spot. Isn't God smart to make things the way he does and then he gives Spot to us to make him (the dog) feel special. When do you feel special?" You have a wonderful opportunity to teach your child the value of respecting God's creation and build character that will last a lifetime.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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Pre-registration fee of \$5 is due November 10 at the Baptist Building along with a list of people attending.

The balance of \$20 is due on Fri., November 12.

One adult counselor for every five campers of the same sex is required.

For more information, contact:
Larry Salter, MBCB

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LIFE AND WORK

After spiritual breakthrough: Work for the kingdom

Is. 6:1-8; Matt. 6:33; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 4:7-11

By Tom Atwood

Because many Christians are spectators rather than participants, churches face a crisis of credibility. If salvation is real, why is there scant evidence that it works?

The book of James asserts, not that works plus faith saves, but that saving faith produces works. Some would assuage their conscience by giving their money but never really giving their time, talents, energy, and creativity to the kingdom work of the church.

Called to serve (Is. 6:1-8). Isaiah's vision of a thrice "holy" God in the temple

brought him to a personal spiritual awakening. God's own holy presence brought conviction of sin; confession of it; and cleansing and forgiveness. With restored spiritual sensitivity, Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" The willing heart of Isaiah replied, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah's quick and willing response should be emulated by every believer. To say "yes" to God's salvation but "no" to God's service has the appearance of inconceivability. Fellowship with God, includes fellowship of



Atwood

God, and Isaiah had a ready heart. He immediately and unhesitatingly responded to God's call to service. How illogical that the "saved" refuse to serve!

The kingdom first (Matt. 6:33). Knowing the fallen human propensity for worry over material things (food, drink, and clothing) Jesus instructed his followers to give priority to spiritual realities. Believers are to seek God's rule and God's righteousness in their lives. Knowing that the Father knows, sets one free to give priority to kingdom matters.

"Seek first" seems to indicate priority rather than simple numerical ordering. The single most important issue is the presence and the properties of the kingdom.

Real salvation works (Eph. 2:8-10). God's grace saves. Works do not. Our salvation is God's

work: "we are God's workmanship." Paul states God's purpose in recreating us in Christ Jesus, namely, "to do good works." These works have been "before ordained" (KJV) or "prepared in advance" (NIV), thus they exist in the life of everyone who knows God's great salvation.

Works are not optional! They are, in fact, essential. Not as a condition for being saved but a consequence of being saved. They are a necessary evidence of God's work of grace. As James says, "Faith without deeds is dead" (2:26). Faith that justifies is a faith that works.

How does your salvation work? In Philippians 2:12-13 we are exhorted to "work out" our salvation. The intent is to work outwardly the inner experience of God's grace: "For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Our works are simply the external signs of God's internal

work. As the old hymn goes: "We'll work 'til Jesus comes, and then be gathered home."

Evidence of faithfulness (1Pet. 4:10-11). The faithful exercise of spiritual gifts produces effective service in the church and through the church to the world. The multi-faceted grace of God is administered faithfully as each member of the body lives out his or her unique spiritual giftedness. Spiritual gifts are God's supernatural endowments for fruitfulness. Their exercise constitutes our faithfulness "as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (v. 10 KJV).

Have you found your niche in the work of the church? What are your spiritual gifts? What has God given you to do in service to him? Remember, every child of God has been saved to serve and gifted by God for successful service.

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Relating to God's appointed leaders

Numbers 15:1-18:32

By Sylvia Fleming

According to Numbers 4, it seems that Korah, a Kohathite of the Levites, had one of the most honorable positions of the Israelite nation. However, because of Korah's covetousness, he began to conspire with Dathan and Abiram from the tribe of Reuben, ultimately involving 250 leaders.

Korah's desire to supercede Moses as leader resulted in Korah and his cohorts accusing both Moses and Aaron of appointing themselves over a group of "holy" people.

Korah, as so many today, behaved as though Moses

became leader at his own behest. The covetous person will seek honor and glory, but not the work that goes with those responsibilities. How close to home does that hit us? Before desiring what another person has, before allowing jealousy to run rampant, the wise person will look beyond the surface to see the cost of prestige or honor. Moses, upon witnessing their rebellion, fell on his face to intercede on their behalf just as he had done so many times in the past. However, this time God was ready to deal with these men, showing the nation the leader he had appointed. Having prepared the prayer censers,



Fleming

Korah and his men were to approach the tabernacle to await God's word.

If they lived to die of old age, then Moses and Aaron had not been called of God. However, if Moses and Aaron were recipients of divine appointment, Moses warned them to watch the ground as it swallowed them up.

On the next day the Shekinah Glory appeared and the Lord asked Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the assembly. Once again Moses interceded for the people. God then asked everyone to separate themselves from Korah and anything that belonged to him, leaving Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their families standing alone. God then brought judgment of death upon them in payment for their sin in the form of a miraculous earthquake with Korah, the instigator, as well as the other mutinous ones, falling into a cavernous earth.

"And the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertaineth unto Korah, and all their goods" (16:32).

The earth closed and it was as though they had never lived. Rather than putting an end to rebellion, however, there were additional 14,700 complainers who died, having never learned the foolishness of questioning the sovereign God's authority.

Because of the Israelites' challenging Aaron's priestly authority, God sought to reinforce it, with each tribe bringing a dead branch (rod) and presenting it before the most holy place. Upon the Levitical staff, Aaron wrote his name. The next day Aaron's dead branch had budded. Not only had it budded, but it had also blossomed. Not only had it blossomed, but it had also brought forth fruit.

God in the presence of the Israelites had worked another great miracle. Overnight a dead branch bore fruit. What should have taken nature a period of

time, God had done immediately. Neither nature nor its laws bind God, Creator of the universe and all in it. Neither is God confined by the process and divisions of time created so that man in his little finite mind might comprehend the process of earthly life in comparison with all eternity. That particular miracle was not the first time God had overridden nature and the process of time. He did that with the Israelites and their crossing the Red Sea. The drying up of the seabed should have been through a process of time, but God had an immediate need and it became dry. Again that type miracle would not be the last. When Jesus changed the water into wine that should have taken time, but it did not. There was a need and God was and is the Supplier of all needs.

When divine appointment comes, it is not to be questioned. When there is a need, God will supply it.

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Required perspective

Deuteronomy 8:7-20

By Jerry L. Smith

My grandparents were "salt of the earth" type of people. As far back as I can remember, they lived in a shotgun style house in the "milltown" quarters of a small Mississippi town.

Though my grandfather couldn't read or write, he still earned an honest living as a band-saw operator at a furniture manufacturing plant. His recreational pursuits included gardening in the spring, squirrel hunting in the fall, and catching bream in the summer.

He and "mawmaw" lived a simple and contented life.

Today, my house is three times the size of my grandparents'. I have a terminal degree

and my wife and I drive late model vehicles.

Am I more blessed than my grandparents? More contented? Sometimes I wonder if I've sacrificed simplicity on the altar of materialism.

What we have (vv. 7-10). When the Hebrews entered Canaan, they found pure water, edible crops, and valuable ores. God provided for their every need and satisfied many of their wants. All God asked in return was they remember him.

Have you been blessed? Do you enjoy an abundance of material resources? Do you acknowledge the originator of these blessings?

My family and I were blessed



Smith

to move into our own home this year. My wife and I prayed for 16 years that God would grant us the privilege of building a house. With the help of our church (who provided the down payment), a dedicated Christian contractor (one of our deacons), and some benevolent lay people (who helped with the labor and other cost related materials like sheet rock), we realized our dream.

Did our church make this dream possible? In a way, yes—but it's God who gets the credit.

Do you see the blessings of God through your employer? Your family? A friend? Take a moment to count your blessings and thank God for his goodness in your life.

Where we got it (vv. 11-18). God knew his children would be tempted to forget him after experiencing the bounty of Canaan. He knew the inherent

dangers associated with success and prosperity.

Many people can't handle prosperity. Have you noticed that some people do a better job of serving God when they are down and out than when they have an abundance of resources?

How about you? Have you become self-sufficient instead of Savior-reliant? Prosperity has a way of doing that to people. Their dependence on God wanes as they accumulate more "stuff."

One way you can remember God in the midst of prosperity is to use your possessions to further his kingdom. For example, we used our home to foster fellowship among other Christians. In your case, you can use those top of the line Pings to lead a co-worker (or customer) to Christ on the golf course. Or, take your neighbor fishing in that new Ranger bass boat and start an evangelistic conversation between casts.

It takes a little creativity, but

there are a lot of ways to remember the source of your blessings. Can you come up with others?

Whom we worship (vv. 19-20). God warned the Hebrews that if they forgot him, he would destroy them as a nation. At times, we need to be aware that forgetting God can bring just as devastating consequences for us.

If you're spending more time on the golf course than on your knees, then you are precariously close to losing a few spiritual strokes. If watching television is more enjoyable than attending a worship service, then your spiritual progress will be pre-empted.

In your quest for the good life, don't forget to pursue the abundant life. Remember that all we have came from God, belongs to God, and should be used for God. Have you forgotten the source of your blessings?

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

*Jesus Christ
Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!*

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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PMA NRS LEO MP NRS
VMAL ZT KSEA GUMK
EVV NRS RSENRSK: ET
NRMG RETN LMKS, ZN
TREV V JS LMKS GKNM
NRSS: NRO ASHEAL TREV V
ASNGAK GUMK NRZKS
MHK RSEL.

MJELZER MKS: PZPNSSK

Clue: L = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Eight: Twelve.

Spelunker reaches youth through hobby

GLENCOE, Ala. (BP) — Descending a mile and a half into the earth, the group of Baptist youth sat down on the floor of the cave to catch their breath. The lights on top of their heads illuminated the dark passages that crawled through the cavern like a labyrinth. One by one each headlamp flickered off, and the darkness crept upon them. As the last light went out, the blackness consumed the group. The youth could not even see their own hands in front of their faces.

"This is what hell is like," whispered Joe Brothers, a member of First Church, Glencoe, Ala., and cave guide for the group. "Jesus says in John 8:12 that 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' Anyone can have the light that Jesus provides in a dark world, if they are only willing," Brothers explained.

"It is as easy to get Jesus as it is to turn that light on, on your head," said 13-year-old Mandy Davis of Paden Church, Gadsden, Ala. "But people would rather walk in the dark," she said after sharing her fear that she might have to find her own way out of Blowing Rock Cave, Scottsboro, Ala.

Brothers, who has been taking youth and Royal Ambassadors (RAs) on caving, hiking, rappelling, and climbing expeditions for nearly 30 years, uses the experiences to teach kids about God and overcoming obstacles. "I don't have the gift of teaching Sunday School, which I think is harder, but this is something I enjoy doing, and God has given me a love for it," said Brothers, who began camping and rappelling as a Boy Scout.

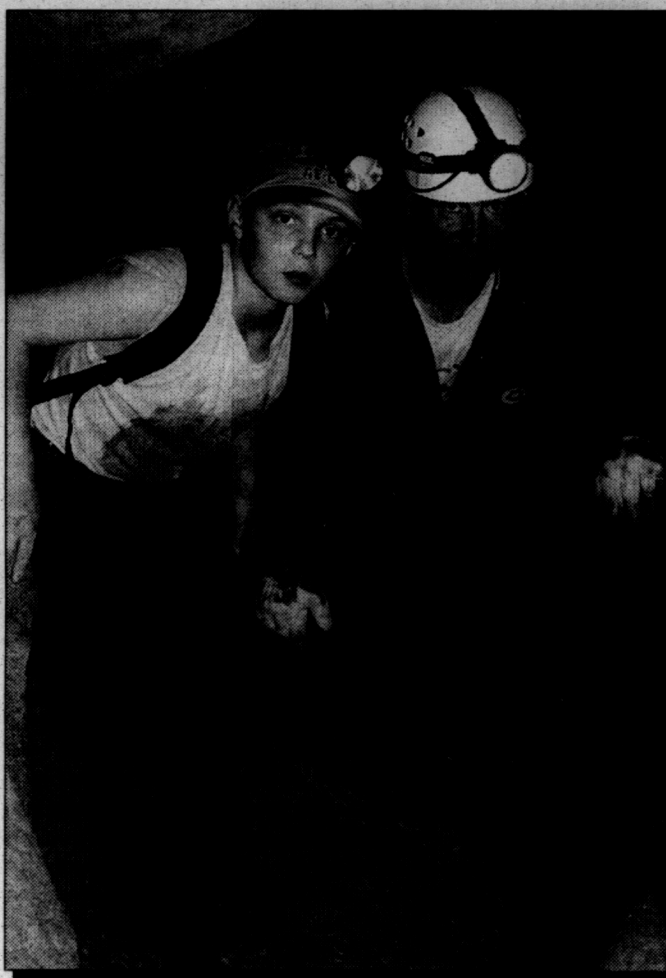
"These kids cannot stand out here and not know that there is a God," Brothers said while tying down ropes on the edge of a cliff overlooking miles of countryside.

Brothers claims the outdoor experiences build self-esteem and character in the youth. "A lot of times these kids get picked on for being in church," he said. "But going on these climbing and caving trips is exciting and 'cool' to them and to their peers."

It also brings new kids to church and provides opportunities for them to hear the gospel, he noted.

At 21, Brothers got his first opportunity to lead a group of RAs at his church on an

expedition. With his previous experience in the Marine Corps and his years as a Boy Scout, he knew what tools he could use to teach them to be responsible, selfless, and God-fearing.



INTO THE DARKNESS — Joe Brothers (right) heads through a passageway with Phillip Davis of Paden Baptist Church in Blowing Rock Cave, Scottsboro. Brothers takes groups caving throughout the year. (BP photo by Rex Harrell)

"We do activities that promote teamwork all the time," said Brothers, who takes 30-40 youth each year on a three-day camping and skill course event he calls Camp Monsoon. These challenges combine caving, navigation, rappelling, and climbing that create an atmosphere of teamwork for the youth.

"We have activities you can't think through by yourself but only with the help

of others," he said. "These are not just camps for fun, but we have the whole event planned out with challenges that help them grow and see the Lord in nature around them."

"This camp is great," said Jessica Houston, 16, a member of First Church, Glencoe. "You can have fun being a Christian. I think Joe really expresses God's love and his love for us with these camps," she said.

It is important for teenagers to have role models like Brothers, Houston added. Ralph Nunn, a member of White's Chapel Baptist-CrossPoint Community Church, Gadsden, Ala., and an assistant on many of Brothers' excursions, has seen youth grow through Brothers' desire to love and teach them.

"I have seen kids that have gone from being totally introverted to outgoing and confident because of the opportunity Joe gives them," he said.

Brothers said participants don't have to be a "super athlete" to be involved in caving or climbing. They just have to be willing to concentrate and learn, he said.

"No one should ever get involved [caving, climbing, or rappelling] without a very experienced guide being alongside them," Brothers noted.

While the activities are dangerous, Brothers has managed to keep his groups free of major accidents in the 28 years he has led youth expeditions. He has seen nothing more than a few scraped knees and minor bruises happen to some of the youth.

"I always back up and even double back up most everything I am doing," he said. "You can never be too careful."

Still, there have been some harrowing experiences for Brothers. He described one incident when he was in a cave several miles underground and entered a passageway with thin air. It was difficult to breathe or concentrate, he said, but with teamwork and prayer, the group made it through the difficult area.

Brothers leads his outdoor excursions year-round and works with the Alabama State Board of Missions in organizing groups for the activities.

For more information, contact Brothers at (256) 494-9581.

Students targeted at homosexual ed conference

ATLANTA (BP) — Homosexuality will become more acceptable to students, especially elementary ones, if a conference sponsored recently by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) fulfills its goals.

More than 700 teachers, administrators, high school and college students, and homosexual activists attended GLSEN's third annual conference, "Teaching Respect for All '99," in Atlanta, according to Conservative News Service (CNS).

They heard from speakers such as Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., and attended strategy sessions on such topics as addressing homosexuality in elementary and middle schools, affirming "transgender youth" and responding to the religious right, according to reports in CNS and CultureFacts, a publication of Family Research

Council (FRC) in Washington.

GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings said at the three-day meeting his organization would be "shameless" in promoting pro-homosexual programs to all 15,000 schools in the country, CultureFacts reported. "We are at a new moment in our history," he said, according to CNS.

"Perhaps the most startling aspect of the [conference] was the increasingly bold programs to teach elementary school students to accept homosexual relationships and 'gay families,'" Peter LaBarbera said in his report for CultureFacts. LaBarbera, a FRC policy analyst, attended the meeting.

The "coming-out" age, the time when people publicly declare their homosexuality, is falling, said lesbian activist Mona Mendoza of the Washington Education Association. "Eighth-graders are coming out; sixth-

graders are coming out," she said, according to CultureFacts. "Let's talk about it and deal with it."

An advertisement in the conference program was for the academic book "Queering Elementary Education: Advancing the Dialogue About Sexualities and Schooling," CultureFacts reported.

"If we do our jobs right, we're going to raise a generation of kids who don't believe [the claims of] the religious right," GLSEN director of communications James Anderson said at a workshop, according to CNS.

Deanna Duby of the National Education Association said at a workshop, according to CNS, "The fear of the religious right is that the schools of today are the governments of tomorrow. And you know what? They're right."

In his keynote address, Lewis, a participant in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, promised

the support of that community for homosexual rights.

"We have one more bridge to cross to reach that time when no one is left behind because of race, color, or sexual orientation. We have a moral obligation and a mandate to speak out," Lewis said, according to CNS.

The religious right "is not about to admit that they just want to bash gays if they can. ... You have to remember, Sunday after Sunday millions of people come to church to hear the diatribes," said Steven Green, general counsel of Americans United, according to CNS.

The strategy sessions were led by such organizations as the ACLU and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, as well as homosexual rights organizations such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, CNS reported.